



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL  
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

**Wednesday, September 3, 2014**

**10:00 AM**

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (14-4057)

**Attachments:** [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (14-3944)

**Chairperson Montañó called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.**

**Chairperson Montañó led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.**

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montañó, Vice Chairperson Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D. and Commissioner Donald S. Andrews

Excused: Commissioner Anne S. Hill and Commissioner Susan Burton

Staff present: Bolaji Famuyiwa and Roy Sinclair. (14-4111)

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

1. Approval of the August 27, 2014 Minutes. (14-3945)

**On motion of Commissioner Cheryl Grills, Ph.D., seconded by Vice Chairperson Frank Bacio, unanimously carried, this item was approved.**

**Attachments:** [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

2. Review, discussion and approval of a draft letter to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors, expressing the Commission's concerns regarding drugging the kids in the group homes and foster care system. (14-3962)

**Commissioner Grills, Ph.D., read the draft letter addressed to the Board of Supervisors regarding the Los Angeles Daily News August 27, 2014**

article entitled, "Drugging Our Kids" and the Commission's concerns regarding the administering and management of psychotropic medications with children placed in group homes by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation Department (PD).

Commissioner Grills stated that there were two questions regarding the letter for discussion by the Commission:

1. How much detail does the Commission want to include in the letter pertaining to the Commission's concerns expressed at the monthly Business Meeting?
2. What is the Commission asking the Board to do regarding the issue of drugging the children in foster care and group homes?

Commissioner Andrews requested clarification as to whether the letter is expressing the content of the article or the concerns of the Commissioners based upon their observations while conducting inspections of group homes. He also expressed his support of Commissioner Grills' letter and cited her professional background in dealing with psychotropic medications.

Following discussion, and by Common Consent, Commissioner Grills edited the draft letter to include verbiage that the letter is based upon the Commissioners observations during their inspections of group homes and also their concerns expressed during SBC meetings over the past number of years. The letter was further edited to include concerns identified by the Commission such as:

1. It is not clear what oversight exists to the to determine the dispensing of Psychotropic Medication;
2. Who is reviewing the Needs and Services Plans (NSP) to determine that there are clear linkages between the use of the medications and the information contained in each child's NSP;
3. The extent to which there is review of the amount/dosage type and reliance of Psychotropic medication as used by specific psychiatrists, group homes or for certain age level or group home RCL level.

Lastly, the letter will be modified to include that the Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors conduct an inquiry into to the issue of psychotropic medication by group home service providers, including the extent of usage, management, oversight, and accountability.

**Commissioner Grills will forward a draft copy of the letter to Commission Staff for submittal to the office of County Counsel for review. After Counsel's review the letter will be brought back to the Commission for review and approval.**

## **II. REPORTS**

- 3. Chairperson's Report on various items for September 3, 2014. (14-3946)**

**Chair Montaña shared the following articles with the Commissioners:**

### **Los Angeles Times:**

- **FBI Halted Secret Sting of L.A. Jails (August 30, 2014)**

### **Daily Breeze:**

- **Lieu Takes on Overdrugging of Foster Children (September 2, 2014, Editorial)**
- **Docs Prescribing Drugs to Foster Kids Under Scrutiny (August 28, 2014)**
- **State Overdrugs - and fails - its Foster Children (August 28, 2014, Editorial)**

- 4. Treasurer's Report for September 3, 2014. (14-3947)**

**Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,415.15.**

- 5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for September 3, 2014. (14-3948)**

**Staff distributed the following to the Commissioners:**

- **Needs and Services Plan Policy form;**
- **Sybil Brand Commission Facilities inspection Scheduling Tool for September 2014; and**
- **Draft Thank You letter addressed to Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District.**

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on September 3, 2014. (14-3949)

**In Compliance:**

**Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited:**

- **Children Are Our Future "Legg House" - (Merion Drive, Northridge, CA.), on September 2, 2014 and noted there is a hole in the Recreational room's wall, the sliding door leading to the pool area needs replacing and the staircase needs a handrail.**

**Commissioner Bigby visited:**

- **Optimist Boys Home and Ranch "Eagle Rock" - (Silver Oak Terrace, Los Angeles, CA.), on September 2, 2014 and noted that the home was in full compliance.**

**Not in Compliance:**

- **The House of Bethesda - (Firmona Avenue, Lawndale, CA.), on August 28, 2014 and noted that there is grafitti on the closet door in Bedroom #1, the Screen door on the closet in Bedroom #3 needs to be replaced and incomplete Needs and Services Plan. Commissioner Grills will re-visit the home in two weeks.**

**Not Home:**

**Commissioner Bigby visited:**

- **Optimist Boys Home and Ranch "Eagle Rock" - (Silver Oak Terrace, Los Angeles, CA.), on August 29, 2014 and noted that no one was home. Commissioner Bigby plans to re-visit the home in a week.**

**Commissioner Grills Visited:**

- **Counseling and Research Associate/Masada Home "Newel House" - (152nd Street, Lawndale, CA.), on September 2, 2014 and noted no one was home.**

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from August 28, 2014 to September 2, 2014. (14-3950)

**There was no report presented.**

### **III. MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **Matters Not Posted**

8. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (14-3951)

**There were no matters presented for a future agenda.**

#### **Public Comment**

9. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (14-3952)

**There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.**

#### **Adjournment**

10. Adjournment for the meeting of September 3, 2014. (14-3953)

**There being no further business, Chairperson Montaña adjourned the meeting of September 3, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.**